

MEDICAL DIRECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 16, 2002

Members Present

Stewart Martin, MD, Chairman
Peter Bruzzo, DO
Frederick Sloan, MD
George Lindbeck, MD
John Potter, MD
Raul Rodriguez, MD
John Rawls, MD
Tamera Barnes, MD
Sabina Braithwaite, MD
Kimberly Mitchell, MD
Carol Gilbert, MD

Others Present

R. Powell, MD
Scott Cormier
Michael Berg
J. McCorey, DO
Ken Clark
Jeffrey Reynolds
Larry Oliver
David Cullen
Tom Nevetral
Warren Short

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Martin at 10:35 AM in the conference room at the Office of EMS.

Those present were asked to introduce themselves.

Motion by Dr. Sloan seconded by Dr. Bruzzo to approve the minutes of the last meeting...Passed.

Item 4): A legislation update was provided by Gary Brown. The office tracked over 60 bills. He further expanded on the "4 for Life" legislation. Gary indicated a lot of good communication between all parties and the Governor's office assisted in successful passage of the bill. To the Office's understanding, fiscal years 02-03 and 03-04 will provide 3.2 million dollars each year as a line item funding for EMS. Afterwards, the bill will establish a true "4 for Life" funding source. Gary reminded the attendees that this is not necessarily a done deal and modifications can be made.

The former funding task force that originally worked on the initial funding increase is being reconvened on Tuesday April 23 to assist in developing a plan for the coming years. A memorandum just released from the Governor's office indicates six (6) new positions are referenced.

Dr. Rawls indicated that due to a decrease in state funding resources and many state agencies downsizing some feathers may be ruffled, but that we need to remember the Office has been on level funding for more than ten (10) years while other state agencies received increases.

Item 5): Warren Short reported that the ALS Roll Outs are scheduled for July 13th and 14th in Roanoke, August 3rd and 4th in Loudoun, and September 28th and 29th in

Virginia Beach. The Roll Outs for ODEMSA and SWVEMS will be scheduled soon.

Item 6): The next item discussed was how to address special needs for EMS Specialty transport teams such as Pediatric transport, Medevac and SWAT teams in addressing their procedure and medication schedules. Subcommittees will be formed to develop the list. The following will be the lead for each of the listed specialties:

SWAT Team: Dr. Bruzzo
Pediatric Transport: Dr. Gilbert
Flight Teams: Dr. Gilbert
Urban SAR, Disaster, Hazmat: ?
Wilderness SAR: ?
Dive Rescue: ?
FEMA/Haz Mat/Disaster: Stewart Martin

The goal is to address what procedures and medications are permissible for the special teams.

Item 7): Symposium Programs No Report other than both are being worked on.

Item 8): Position Paper – Deferred due to principle writer's absence.

Item 9): Role of Disaster Response Physician: Report provided by Dr. Gilbert. There will be two teams, an East and West team. The function is to act as medical direction for task force teams and as a liaison with local medical direction. Dr. Gilbert will develop a flyer for the next meeting. More physicians are needed for the western team.

Item 10): A) Public hearing for the proposed Rules and Regulations is scheduled for May 9, 2002 at 7 PM in the Airport Hilton in Richmond. Ken Clark distributed the latest draft regulations for OMDs.

B) Discussion concerning the desire for a web page for OMDs that would allow the following activity insured.

Access to providers records
Agency OMDs
Allow updates by OMDs

Item 11): New Business:

A) Dr. Sloan wanted to know how membership was selected for Medical Direction committee. Response: The regional council will provide this information to the office when requested.

B) Dr Martin expressed interest for acquiring physicians who wanted to be course directors but not OMDs. The response was that the new regulations will allow for this.

C) Dr. Braithwaite raised the issue of how a paramedic student might be able to challenge at a lower level of certification prior to the paramedic program ending. The response is the program must announce a course for each level of certification sought and assure that even if the lower certification was part of a higher level certification course, that the students meet all the requirements for that specific lower level prior to testing.

D) The issue of allowing ALS students to practice under preceptor supervision in the field was discussed and supported by Medical Direction Committee.

E): Dave Cullen advised the committee that at the next meeting, they may be requested to provide guidance on 15 to 20 exemption requests by agencies who wish to run ALS without an EMT on the ambulance. There was much discussion on the pros and cons of this issue as it relates the ability to deliver care in the rural environment. It was suggested that a position paper be developed on Rural EMS and Staffing issues. This paper will be co-authored by Dr. Bruzzo and Dr. Braithwaite.

F) The EMT intubation presentation requested by the Committee will be postponed until the next meeting at which time Mike Berg will make a presentation.

The next meeting of the committee will be July 16, 2002, 10:30 AM in the Office of EMS conference room.

The meeting was adjourned.